

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously presented) A robotic tape applicator comprising:

(d) computer means which includes programmed data respecting the shape of the work piece and the proposed path of the tape to be adhered to the work piece;

(e) tape applicator means under the control of the computer means to apply the tape to the work piece along said path; and

(f) means to hold a work piece in registration with the tape applicator means.

6. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 5, further comprising an activator applicator means adapted to apply an activator liquid along the predetermined path prior to application of the tape, the activator applicator includes an activator storage tank that stores the activator liquid, an application gun that is coupled to the activator storage tank to receive and apply the activator liquid along the predetermined path, and a back pressure relief system coupled to the application gun to circulate the activator liquid back to the activator storage tank.

7. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 5, wherein the tape applicator means comprises:

- (a) a tape applicator head comprising a nose at one end;
- (b) a cutting ~~means~~ mechanism to cut the tape, the cutting mechanism is integrated within the nose; and
- (c) a tape braking ~~means~~ adapted mechanism that can be applied against the tape to hold the tape stationary during cutting, the tape braking mechanism includes a spring-loaded lever to trap the tape.

8. (Currently amended) A robotic tape applicator comprising:

- (a) a computer adapted to control a robotic arm according to a program;
- (b) the robotic arm comprising:
 - (i) a roller ~~adapted to releasably store two-sided adhesive tape~~;
a two-sided adhesive tape residing on the roller;
 - (ii) a guide ~~means~~ to guide the tape to a tape applicator head for application to a work piece;
 - (iii) the tape applicator head comprising a nose ~~biased to permit~~ capable of permitting reciprocal motion in a direction normal to the work piece; and
 - (iv) a cutting ~~means~~ mechanism integral with the tape applicator head [, adapted] to cut the tape under the control of the computer.

9. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, further comprising a tensioning ~~means~~ mechanism located between the roller and the nose ~~adapted and applied against the tape~~ to maintain a uniform tension on the tape.

10. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 9, wherein the tensioning ~~means~~ mechanism comprises a nip roller.

11. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, further comprising a braking ~~means-adapted~~ mechanism arranged to releasably restrain movement of the tape.

12. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 11, wherein the braking ~~means~~ mechanism comprises a ~~spring-biased~~ spring-loaded lever ~~adapted~~ to releasably trap the tape.

13. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 12, wherein the ~~spring-biased~~ spring-loaded lever ~~is-adapted-to-release~~ releases the tape under pneumatic pressure.

14. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, wherein projections located on either side of the nose and extending beyond the leading edge of the nose a distance less than the thickness of the tape ~~are-adapted-to-contact~~ are in contact with the work piece while the tape is running between said projections to uniformly compress the tape during tape application.

15. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, wherein a hydraulically or pneumatically controlled piston in a compliance cylinder ~~is adapted to maintain~~ maintains a constant pressure on the tape applicator head.

16. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, wherein the cutting ~~means~~ mechanism comprises a knife blade located within the perimeter of the tape applicator head when the cutting ~~means~~ mechanism is not in operation.

17. (Original) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 16, further comprising a pneumatic or hydraulic blade control piston to control the knife blade operation.

18. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 16, further comprising a knife blade sensor ~~adapted to~~ detect when the knife blade is fully retracted after the tape is cut and to signal the computer so that tape application can resume.

19. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, further comprising vacuum ports ~~adapted to~~ that provide sites of negative pressure against which the tape can be slideably held during application of tape to the work piece.

20. (Original) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, wherein the nose of the tape applicator head comprises a smooth radius, the centre point of which radius lies along a roll axis of the robotic arm.

21. (Previously presented) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 5, wherein the tape is an adhesive tape.

22. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of claim 8, wherein the nose of the tape applicator head comprises a ~~stationary~~ non-rotary radius, the centre point of which radius lies along a roll axis of the robotic arm.

23. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of claim 20, wherein the smooth radius is a ~~stationary~~ non-rotary smooth radius.

24. (Currently amended) The robotic tape applicator of claim 19, wherein the nose of the tape applicator head comprises a ~~stationary~~ non-rotary radius, the centre point of which radius lies along a roll axis of the robotic arm; and the robotic tape applicator further comprises: vacuum ports that provide sites of negative pressure against which the tape can be slideably held to the ~~stationary~~ non-rotary radius during application of tape to the work piece.

25. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, wherein the cutting mechanism comprises a knife blade located within the perimeter of the nose when the cutting mechanism is not in operation.

26. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, wherein the nose of the tape applicator head comprises a non-rotary smooth radius, the centre point of which radius lies along a roll axis of the robotic arm; and

the cutting mechanism comprises a knife blade that is retracted from the non-rotary smooth radius of the nose when the cutting mechanism is not in operation.

27. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 11, wherein the tape applicator head further comprises a tensioning mechanism located adjacent to the braking mechanism to maintain a uniform tension on the tape.

28. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, further comprising:
a sensor to detect an amount of the tape remaining on the roller.

29. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 8, further comprising:
a linear bearing coupled to the tape applicator head to actuate the nose in reciprocal motion in the direction normal to the work piece.

30. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 29, further comprising:
a hydraulically or pneumatically controlled piston in a compliance cylinder capable of maintaining a constant pressure on the tape applicator head; and
wherein the linear bearing is arranged between the compliance cylinder and the tape applicator head.

31. (New) The robotic tape applicator of Claim 14, wherein the tape applicator head further comprises:
side guides connecting with the projections located on either side of the nose to guide the tape to between the projections and onward to the nose.